

REMARKS

The application has been amended to correct minor informalities so as to place the application, as a whole, into a prima facie condition for allowance. Great care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new subject matter into the application as the result of the foregoing modifications.

In the Office Action dated June 9, 2004, the Examiner objected to the drawings because numerical indicator (142) was not illustrated. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits a proposed drawing correction shown in red to Figure 2. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner accept the proposed drawing change and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a) as failing to show first and second points as indicated in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 8 to further clarify the claim language by including means for motivating said firing pin from a cocked position, clearly shown in Fig. 17, to an uncocked position, clearly shown in Fig. 18. Applicant has also amended Claims 2 and 8 to further clarify that the moving means is means for moving the igniter against the biasing means into a firing position, shown clearly in Fig. 18, in which the igniter is in contact with the firing pin when the firing pin is in the uncocked position.

Applicant has submitted the proposed drawing changes as suggested by the Examiner and has made all of the amendments suggested by the Examiner, except that Applicant has not amended Claim 20. Applicant respectfully submits that the "means provided over said breech plug for directing primer shrapnel downward" may be any such means provided "over" the breech plug. In the preferred embodiment, the means is that portion of the receiver shown

directly below the number "12" in Fig. 17, and extending rearward and downward over a portion of the carriage. The means may, of course, be any means provided "over" the breech plug, and need not be provided directly over the breech plug. As Applicant has made the amendments suggested by the Examiner and has clarified the meaning of the language of Claim 20, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims remaining in the application are allowable, and requests reconsideration and passage to allowance be granted these claims.

The Examiner has stated that Claims 2-4 and 8-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, as Applicant has rewritten all of these claims as suggested by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully requests that reconsideration be granted the claims and passage to allowance granted.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 12-20, and corrected drawings, are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance of the remaining claims are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned at 515-288-9263 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter of the present invention if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

By

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